

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 AF-04 PM-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-04 EB-03

RSR-01 /060 W

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R 220900Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4711

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3591

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, AG, LY, EG

SUBJ: VISIT OF BALQASIM OF ALGERIA TO SAUDI ARABIA

SUMMARY. VISIT BY ALGERIAN MINISTER OF STATE BALQASIM REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN PROMISE OF FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL SAUDI ASSISTANCE TO ALGERIA FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. ALGERIANS ALSO SAID TO HAVE PLEDGED COOPERATION WITH FAISAL IN RESPONSE KING'S CONCERN WITH LIBYA'S QADHAAFI. KING DEFENDED SAUDI ARABIA'S CONTINUED CLOSE TIES TO U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND MINISTER OF STATE SHARIF BALQASIM DEPARTED JIDD AUGUST 16 FOLLOWING TWO-DAY VISIT HEADLINED IN LOCAL PRESS. ONE OF ACCOMPANYING SAUDI OFFICIALS CLAIMS BALQASIM SUCCEEDED IN GAINING FAISAL AGREEMENT FOR SUBSTANTIAL (PERHAPS CONFIDENTIAL

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EVENTUALLY AS MUCH AS \$400 MILLION) PARTICIPATION OR

LOAN TO ALGIERS FOR FUNDING OF LNG TANKERS AND PERHAPS OTHER PETROLEUM FACILITIES. DETAILS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH CENTRAL PLANNING PRESIDENT HISHAM NAZIR, ACCORDING TO SOURCE.

2. OF MORE INTEREST IS CLAIM THAT FAISAL CONVERSATION WITH ALGERIAN REP FOCUSED ON KING'S CONCERN OVER QADHAAFI AND HIS ACTIVITIES. BALQASIM PLEDGED COOPERATION ON THIS SUBJECT AND LATER HELD LONG DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE SULTAN. FAISAL DEFENSED HIS CONTINUED CLOSENESS TO THE UNITED STATES BY TELLING BALQASIM THAT HE WAS BUILDING UP RESOURCES AND MONEY TO BE USED IN THE ARAB CAUSE, AND FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES SUCH AS ALGIERS. HE SAID HE CONTINUED TO "QUARREL" WITH THE UNITED STATES ON ITS MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY.

3. BALQASIM WAS BILLED IN SAUDI ARABIA AS "FOREIGN MINISTER HEADING A HIGH-RANKING DELEGATION." HE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THAT HIS VISIT WAS "IN HARMONY WITH THE DESIRES OF THE TWO LEADERS, FAISAL AND BOUMEDIENNE, FOR STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS, REINFORCING FRATERNAL BONDS AND DISCUSSING INCREASED COOPERATION IN ALL VITAL DOMAINS." SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS IS SECOND IMPORTANT ALGERIAN VISITOR IN 10 DAY PERIOD. ALGERIAN MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, DR. AHMAN ALEEB AL-IBRAHAIMI DELIVERED A SPECIAL LETTER TO KING FAISAL FROM ALGERIAN PRESIDENT ON AUGUST 5. PRESUMABLY THIS HAD TO DO WITH ONGOING DIALOGUE IN PREPARATION FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE EARLY IN SEPTEMBER.

4. NO INDICATIONS YET CONFIRMING SAG ATTENDANCE AT POSSIBLE PRE-CONFERENCE ARAB SUMMIT.
THACHER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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